

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A coating device for coating, for example, lenticular or granular items, comprising a drum rotatably mounted about a horizontal axis for accommodation of the items during a coating process, a loading device for filling the items into the drum, a closeable opening in the drum for admission of the uncoated items into the same and for allowing discharge of the coated items from the same, and a spraying device disposed within the drum for coating said items, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an unloading device is provided beneath said drum for removing the coated items, and between said unloading device and said drum there is provided a reciprocatory screening element which can be moved back and forth between a first position screening off said unloading device to a second position opening said unloading device.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said screening element is curved.

Claim 3 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said screening element is in the form of part of a cylinder barrel.

Claim 4 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the radius of said cylinder barrel is dimensioned such that the screening element surrounds said drum with a minimum space therebetween.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 3 ~~or claim 4, characterized in that~~ wherein said screening element is provided, at each of the curved ends thereof, with a front abutment surface.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said screening element is securely attached, for guiding purposes, to at least one roller-mounted guide rail.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one guide rail is dimensioned to have a length such that said screening element can be swung through approximately 90 degrees.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 6 ~~or claim 7, characterized in that~~ wherein two guide rails are provided.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said guide rails are connected to said front abutment surfaces of said screening element.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of claims 6 to 9, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one roller bearing is fixed to said unloading device to enable reciprocatory displacement of said guide rails of said screening element.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one guide rail is of round cross-section and the rollers of a roller bearing are concave in cross-section.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims 1, characterized in that~~ wherein, for the purpose of affording drive means for reciprocatory displacement, said screening element is connected to a curved toothed rack which cooperates with a motor-driven toothed wheel.

Claim 13 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said curved toothed rack is attached to the outer surface of said cylinder barrel.

Claim 14 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 12 ~~or claim 13, characterized in that~~ wherein said toothed wheel is attached to said unloading device.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the

spraying device for the cleaning liquid is disposed in the vicinity of the spraying device used for coating the items.

Claim 16 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims 1, characterized in that~~ wherein said unloading device includes a funnel-shaped trough.

Claim 17 (currently amended). A device as defined in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharging device beneath said funnel-shaped trough contains a conveyor belt for the removal of the items in a controlled manner.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims 1, characterized in that~~ wherein a plurality of iterative coating processes can be carried out successively using different coating materials in each case.